

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1 (Original): An oxinitride thermoelectric material, which has an element composition represented by the following formula (A):



wherein M represents a transition element; R represents a rare earth element;

$0 \leq z \leq 0.7$ ,  $0 \leq y \leq 0.7$ ,  $0.2 \leq x \leq 1.0$ ,  $0 \leq u \leq 0.7$ ,  $0 \leq v \leq 0.05$ ,  $0.9 \leq s+t \leq 1.7$ , and  $0.4 \leq s \leq 1.2$ ; and  $x+y+z = 1$ , and

has an absolute value of a Seebeck coefficient of  $40 \mu\text{V/K}$  or more at a temperature of  $100^\circ\text{C}$  or more.

2 (Original): The oxinitride thermoelectric material according to claim 1, wherein the element composition has an electrical resistivity of  $10^{-3} \Omega\text{cm}$  or less.

3 (Currently Amended): The oxinitride thermoelectric material according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein M in formula (A) is at least one transition element selected from Ni, Fe, Co and Mn.

4 (Currently Amended): The oxinitride thermoelectric material according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein R in formula (A) is at least one rare earth element selected from Gd, Sc, Sm, Tb and Dy.

5 (Currently Amended): The oxinitride thermoelectric material according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 4, which comprises at least one having an amorphous structure.

6 (Original): A nitride thermoelectric material which has an element composition represented by formula (B):



wherein M represents a transition element; R represents a rare earth element; D represents at least one element selected from elements of the Group IV or II;  
 $0 \leq z \leq 0.7$ ,  $0 \leq y \leq 0.7$ ,  $0.2 \leq x \leq 1.0$ ,  $0 \leq u \leq 0.7$ ,  $0 \leq v \leq 0.05$ ,  $0 \leq w \leq 0.2$ , and  $0.9 \leq m \leq 1.1$ ;  
and  $x+y+z = 1$ , and

has an absolute value of a Seebeck coefficient of  $50 \mu\text{V/K}$  or more at a temperature of  $100^\circ\text{C}$  or more, and an electrical resistivity of  $10^{-3} \Omega\text{cm}$  or less.

7 (Original): The nitride thermoelectric material according to claim 6, wherein M in formula (B) is at least transition element selected from Ni, Fe, Co and Mn.

8 (Original): The nitride thermoelectric material according to claim 6, wherein R in formula (B) is at least rare earth element selected from Gd, Sc, Sm and Tb.

9 (Original): The nitride thermoelectric material according to claim 6, wherein D in formula (B) is at least one element selected from Ge, Si, Mg and Zn.

10 (Currently Amended): The nitride thermoelectric material according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 6 to 9, which comprises at least one having a wurtzite crystal structure.

11 (Currently Amended): The nitride thermoelectric material according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 6 to 9, which comprises at least one having an amorphous structure.